



# FAMILY READINESS NEWSLETTER

EMBER 2004



# Happy Holiday



## CO's Note

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the 7th Comm Bn Families for supporting your Marines

& Sailors! I know that you endure many hardships and you have earned my utmost respect.

As we move into the Christmas and New Year Holidays we are reminded of the importance of our families. The holidays are a time of reflection, devotion, and resolution.

I hope all of you take full advantage of the holidays to catch up on some quality time with your families. You owe it to yourself to make it happen.

On a different note, I am sure many of you have heard about changes being made in our battalion. I have directed these changes to better prepare our personnel for combat. I am responsible to ensure the combat readiness of our unit and these changes will have a positive impact in that regard.

I also understand that our families have a direct impact on the combat readiness of our Marines and Sailors. This is your unit so please give me your suggestions on how we can better support you! And please don't forget to fill out the contact card with your current email address and phone number!

Additionally, we have many of our personnel deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Please keep these Marines and Sailors in your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their safe return!

Please feel free to call me anytime on any issue. My door is always open and I welcome your emails and phone calls.

## SgtMaj's Word

During the holiday season deployments are especially difficult for family members. So, please keep in mind we are part of one big extended family and are here for each other!

Happy Holidays!  
Roger Jenness

## FRO's Remarks

As the Battalion Executive Officer (Bn XO) we kid that the XO stands for Hugs and Kisses but nothing could be more true as the Battalion Family Readiness Officer. One of my jobs is to ensure your family concerns are addressed and I'm available to you personally 24 hours a day 7 days a week to resolve problems that may need special attention. I will work with our staff and the companies to ensure we do our best for you. We are all part of the 7th Comm Bn Family.

Hugs and Kisses Hank



## Coordinator's Message

Hello, my name is Michelle Girbach I am your Key Volunteer Coordinator. My husband and I have been stationed here for 2 years and are enjoying every minute of it. We have 2 children who are 9 and 11. I have been a Key Volunteer for 3 years and am enjoying the opportunity to be able to assist with family readiness. I look forward to interacting with all of you in the near future.

Thank You

Michelle Girbach

**Next Family Readiness Meeting is 03 Jan, 1830, @ Courtney Chapel.**  
**All 7th Comm spouses are invited to attend!**

## Commanding Officer

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## Sergeant Major

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## Executive Officer/ Family Readiness Officer

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## Chaplain

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## KVN Advisor

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## KVN Coordinator

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## Hq Co. Volunteer

Mrs. Marcella (Marcia) Breazil  
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## Alpha Co. Volunteer

Mrs. April Silvio  
Home# 622-8470

Mrs. Elizabeth (Eli) Bassing  
Home # 098-965-1800

## Bravo Co. Volunteer

Mrs. Jennifer Hammond  
Home# 622-8434

Mrs. Kerri Boutin  
Home# 622-6861

## Service Co. Volunteer

Mrs. Joni Fortier  
Home# 622-8670

Mrs. Danielle Harper  
Home# 622-8206

Mrs. Chanin Sanchezsoto  
Home # 622-8596



# Dedication Begins at Home



## Family Readiness Issues

### Updated Family Contact Information

We desperately need your updated contact information! Please take a minute to fill out the attached card. If for some reason you didn't receive the card then please email Maj Hank Salmans and we will get you the template. We are building a database of family email addresses and phone numbers and want to ensure that we have the most current information!

### 7th Comm Bn Babysitter List

Thanks for your help on this one!!! We are in the process of compiling a list of Red Cross qualified babysitters within the battalion. If you have a qualified babysitter in your family and want to put that persons name on our list then

please contact Maj Hank Salmans with your information. This is an issue of taking care of

### Care Packages for Deployed Personnel

our own. We hope to publish the list soon so if you are interested in sending care packages to our deployed personnel then please contact us for the deployed mailing address and suggested contents. This is a good opportunity for a scout, church, spouse group,

project!

### Upcoming Events

- 11-12 Dec - Courtney Christmas Fest
- 17-19 Dec - Yomitan Pottery Festival
- 18-19 Dec - Kingdom Fest in Ryukyu
- 22 Dec - Bn Christmas Party/Family Day**
- 22-26 Dec - Southeast Botanical Gardens Christmas
- 22-24 Dec - Operation Cookie Drop**
- 23 Dec - Spouses of Deployed Personnel Tour
- 23-27 Dec - Christmas Fantasy '04
- 1-3 Jan - Shuri Castle New Years Banquet
- 29-30 Jan - Nago Cherry Blossom Festival

### Courtney Christmas Fest

**(11-12 Dec)**

The Courtney Christmas Festival Cultural Ceremony and Laser Light Show will be an exciting and unique experience. We hope to see you there!

### Yomitan Pottery Festival

**(17-19 Dec / 0900-1900 )**

This festival is held at the Yachimun Pottery Village, Yomitan Village. Numerous pottery studios are located in the village and prices will be 20-30% lower than normal. There will be booths selling food and Yomitan

### Kingdom Fest in Ryukyu

**(18-19 Dec)**

This event features a musical show and live concerts in addition to traditional dances and musical instruments known as sanshin. Admission is FREE, but tickets are required. For tickets email: index@okinawaindex.com by

### Baccalon Christmas Party/Family Day

**(22 Dec / 1100-1600)**

This party will include food and fun for the entire family! We will have games, bouncies, and a hayride. The event will be held behind the Hansen USO. All Marines/Sailors with family on Okinawa will be allowed to stay home that morning so they can drive in with their family for the party. Word has it that Santa is planning a surprise visit! We hope to see

### Southeast Botanical Gardens

**(22-26 Dec / 1600-2200)**

This is a popular Christmas illumination event that is held annually.

Celebrate a subtropical Christmas with a gorgeous and romantic illumination. Admission will close

### Tour for Spouses of Deployed Servicemembers (23 Dec)

The CSC for Camp Foster is offering a free trip to the Botanical Gardens. The bus will leave the Foster Community Center at 1700 and return around 2300. This is **open only to spouses and children of deployed service members**.

We are limited to 55 seats. If you are interested in going to see the lights at Botanical Gardens please call MCFTB 645-3689. This is a wonderful **Operation Cookie Drop** opportunity for these spouses. We will be collecting Christmas cookies for our personnel

living in the barracks. Donated cookies will be collected on Camp Courtney at the Hammonds quarters (Bldg 4511, Apartment 205) and on McT at the Harper's Quarters (Bldg 5015, Qtrs F). The Wallace's house will be the collection point on Kadena (2815 North Terrace). Also feel free to bring your cookie donations to the Bn Christmas Party. All cookies will be delivered by family volunteers

### Christmas Fantasy '04

**(23-27 Dec / 1600-2200)**  
This event is held at the Okinawa Zoo and includes snowball fights, sledding, street

performance competition, live music, balloon art, fun booths and more. Cost is yen 1,800 (adults/high school) & Yen

### Shuri Castle New Years Banquet (1-3 Jan / 0900-1700)

This event is held at the Shuri Castle park, Naha.

Reenactment of Ryukyu

Kingdom era New Years

# **Family Readiness Family Contact Card**

Please take a minute to fill out this card and then drop it back in the mail to our Battalion. We are trying to get a list of all home email accounts so we can send out information directly to the 7<sup>th</sup> Comm Bn spouses. We want you to stay informed about upcoming events and deployments. This will also give you an outlet to provide suggestions on how we can better support you. Thanks for your assistance with this matter!

Semper Fidelis,  
Greg Breazile

(Please email this completed form to Maj Hank Salmans: salmanshr@iiimef.usmc.mil

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**Spouse Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsors Name & Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse Home Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address (FPO/APO Address)**

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**Qtrs Address (Bldg/Apt #, Street address for off-base)**

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